

# National Cultural Policy Submission

## Anonymous

Submitted: As an individual

**What challenges and opportunities do you see in the pillar or pillars most relevant to you? Feel free to respond to any or all pillars:**

**A Place for Every Story** The idea of “story” does little for the fuller understanding of creative endeavour. The word suggests a triviality that downgrades creativity – literature is not a story and painting is not a narrative – Cezanne, Picasso, Leonardo and countless others were not painting “yarns”.

**The Centrality of the Artist** This is a truism. It’s crucial and often forgotten, even by some galleries that treat artists as “suppliers”.

**Strong Institutions** Regional galleries need more help – they should be more clearly central to the cultural life of regional communities. Too often these galleries are treated as “venues” or council facilities with no more importance than swimming centres and sports fields.

**Reaching the Audience** There is scope for Australians to be introduced to “artists’ homes”, where location gives artistic practice a community face: Jesse Traill’s, Streeton’s and Tom Robert’s houses in The Dandenongs have been totally overlooked in this regard. Currently, this only happens when artists or collectors donate their properties (Whiteley, Nolen, Boyd, Bundanon, Heide, McClelland amongst others)

**Please tell us how each of the 5 pillars are important to you and your practice and why. Feel free to respond to any or all that are applicable to you:**

**Strong Institutions** Many art institutions and galleries have inappropriate Boards. Positions are filled by prominent locals for social rather than professional reasons. Experts are often excluded for similar reasons – the “small minds in small communities” problem is unfortunately common.

**Reaching the Audience** See above.